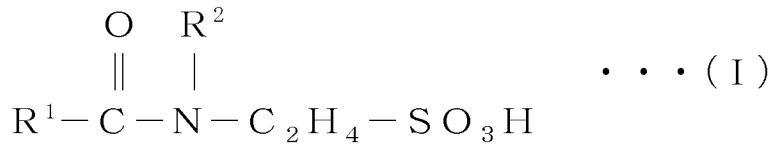


## **IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (Previously Presented) Aqueous suspensions of cross-linked silicone particles comprising:

- (A) cross-linked silicone particles with an average particle size of from 0.5 to 500  $\mu\text{m}$ ,
- (B) N-acyl-, N-hydrocarbon taurines represented by the general formula (I);



(where  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$  stand for unsubstituted or substituted monovalent hydrocarbon groups and/or their salts, and

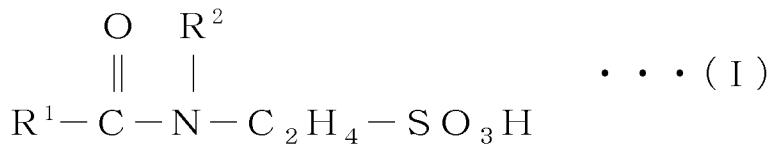
- (C) water.

2. (Previously Presented) The aqueous suspensions according to claim 1, wherein component (A) comprises cross-linked silicone particles containing non-crosslinkable oil.

3. (Original) The aqueous suspensions according to claim 1, wherein component (A) accounts for from 25 to 80 % by weight, component (B) accounts for from 0.001 to 20 % by weight, and component (C) accounts for from 5 to 75 % by weight.

4. (Previously Presented) Aqueous emulsions of oil containing cross-linked silicone particles comprising :

- (A) cross-linked silicone particles with an average particle size of from 0.5 to 500  $\mu\text{m}$ ,
- (D) oil,
- (B) N-acyl-, N-hydrocarbon taurines represented by the general formula (I)



(where  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$  stand for unsubstituted or substituted monovalent hydrocarbon groups) and/or their salts, and

(C) water,

with component (A) contained in droplets of component (D) dispersed in water.

5. (Original) The aqueous emulsions according to claim 4, wherein component (D), which contains component (A) accounts for from 25 to 90 % by weight, component (B) accounts for from 0.001 to 20 % by weight, and component (C) accounts for from 5 to 75 % by weight.

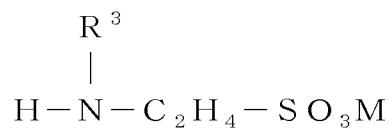
6. (Previously Presented) Cosmetic raw materials comprising the aqueous suspensions according to claim 1.

7. (Previously Presented) Cosmetic raw materials comprising the aqueous emulsions according to claim 4.

8. (Previously Presented) The aqueous suspensions according to claim 1, wherein component (B) is selected from the group of sodium N-lauroyl methyl taurine, sodium N-myristoyl methyl taurine, sodium N-oleoyl methyl taurine, sodium N-stearoyl methyl taurine, sodium N-coconut fatty acid methyl taurine, potassium N-coconut fatty acid methyl taurine,

magnesium N-coconut fatty acid methyl taurine, sodium N-palmitoyl methyl taurine, potassium N-stearoyl methyl taurine, potassium N-cetylroyl methyl taurine, and combinations thereof.

9. (Currently Amended) The aqueous suspensions according to claim [[1]]14, wherein the alkaline substance for neutralizing component (B) the N-acyl-, N-hydrocarbon taurines is further defined as a taurine salt represented by the general formula

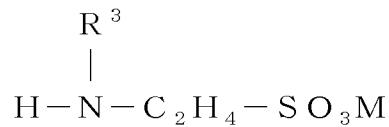


(where  $\text{R}^3$  stands for a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group, and  $\text{M}$  is an alkali metal).

10. (Currently Amended) The aqueous suspensions according to claim 9, wherein the taurine salt is selected from the group of sodium taurine, sodium N-methyl taurine, and combinations thereof.

11. (Previously Presented) The aqueous emulsions according to claim 4, wherein component (B) is selected from the group of sodium N-lauroyl methyl taurine, sodium N-myristoyl methyl taurine, sodium N-oleoyl methyl taurine, sodium N-stearoyl methyl taurine, sodium N-coconut fatty acid methyl taurine, potassium N-coconut fatty acid methyl taurine, magnesium N-coconut fatty acid methyl taurine, sodium N-palmitoyl methyl taurine, potassium N-stearoyl methyl taurine, potassium N-cetylroyl methyl taurine, and combinations thereof.

12. (Currently Amended) The aqueous emulsions according to claim [[4]]16, wherein the alkaline substance for neutralizing component (B) the N-acyl-, N-hydrocarbon taurines is further defined as a taurine salt represented by the general formula



(where  $\text{R}^3$  stands for a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group, and  $\text{M}$  is an alkali metal).

13. (Currently Amended) The aqueous emulsions according to claim 12, wherein the taurine salt is selected from the group of sodium taurine, sodium N-methyl taurine, and combinations thereof.

Please add the following new claims.

14. (New) The aqueous suspensions according to claim 1 wherein component (B) is further defined as a salt of N-acyl-, N-hydrocarbon taurines formed by neutralizing the N-acyl-, N-hydrocarbon taurines with an alkaline substance.

15. (New) The aqueous suspensions according to claim 14 wherein the alkaline substance for neutralizing component (B) is selected from the group of alkali metal hydroxides, acid salts of alkali metals, water-soluble amines, basic amino acids, and taurine salts.

16. (New) The aqueous emulsions according to claim 4 wherein component (B) is further defined as a salt of N-acyl-, N-hydrocarbon taurines formed by neutralizing the N-acyl-, N-hydrocarbon taurines with an alkaline substance.

17. (New) The aqueous emulsions according to claim 16 wherein the alkaline substance for neutralizing component (B) is selected from the group of alkali metal hydroxides, acid salts of alkali metals, water-soluble amines, basic amino acids, and taurine salts.